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ATTY DOCKET NO. SOF153/143706 SO77-12696

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Boatman, et al.

Serial No.:

10/712,127

Group No.:

3617

Date Filed:

November 12, 2003

For:

Retrieval and Connection System for a

Disconnectable Mooring Yoke

Examiner:

Sherman D. Basinger

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2004, please amend drawing Figure 16C by illustrating vertical axis yaw bearing 91, amend Figure 15 by adding a reference number 142, and add a Figure 16D to illustrate an elastomeric flex joint 92. Replacement drawing sheets are attached.

Please amend the specification to mention added drawing Figure 16D and to mention reference number to yaw bearing 91 and flex joint 92. Replacement pages begin at page 2. A brief description of Figures 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 14A and 14B is provided.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 6.

Remarks concerning the rejection of Claims 1-4, 15-17 and 19 begin on page 12.